

18 September 58

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Submission of Proposed Digest Item.

Construction of Rail Line Moscow - Karaganda - Urumchi - Peking:

In 1959 construction will begin on the 659 kilometer sector of railroad from Aktogay to Karaganda. It will connect with the 311 kilometer line from Aktogay to the Chinese Border which is planned to be completed on 15 November 1958. The Chinese plan to complete their sector of the line up to the USSR Border in 1960. (Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 13 April 1958, p 4. U.)

Comment: Contradictory reports over the past two years have indicated that both Chinese and USSR builders were scheduled to build the 490 kilometer line from Urumchi to the USSR-Chinese border. It now appears that the Chinese will build that line because the USSR construction force will be employed to construct the Karaganda - Aktogay line. Completion of the line from Moscow to Peking via Karaganda and Urumchi will shorten the rail distance between the two capitals by 1,000 kilometers.

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